After the Cold War: Conflict and Development in Europe and Post-Soviet Countries

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Why did the Soviet Union collapse? How did the end of Soviet era affect the rest of the world? What happened to the Socialist bloc countries and what kind of problems are former Soviet republics facing now, almost thirty years after the fall of Iron Curtain? All these questions will be carefully analysed in this course. We will start with a general discussion on the shift in the international order from a bipolar to a unipolar world triggered by the end of Soviet system followed by case studies including German Unification, anti-EU sentiments and rise of populism in Eastern Europe. Russia’s current “realpolitik” strategy and conflict in Ukraine will also be examined.
Course Description

Did “history end” with the ideological victory of liberalism? We will examine how the rise of democratic movements at the end of the 20th century has been followed by a powerful conservative wave and the spread of Euroscepticism across the region. This course considers the degree to which nation-building processes have unfolded within Central and Eastern Europe from the end of twentieth century to nowadays. The detailed analysis of USSR dissolution will set a dynamic start for the course, following by the lecture on fall of the Berlin wall and the reunification of Germany provide seminar participants with inspirational stories about the cultural and ideological reintegration of Germany. The study of the recent development of nationalism, anti-immigrant sentiments and populism in Hungary and Poland will bring global perspectives to regional problems. The second section examines transition processes within the “European” part of the former Soviet Union. We will research and compare Ukraine and Russia and some ongoing and frozen conflict zones. Old and new challenges of multiethnic states bordering on Russia, geopolitical influences and the West-East dilemma will all be covered in this section. The concluding section will be used to generate discussion about the future of the post-Soviet region and new challenges to the global security.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOCIALIST CAMP: THE GLOBAL RESET


UNIFICATION OF GERMANY: HOW TO “OVERCOME” SOCIALISM?

Documentary “The Rise and Fall of The Berlin Wall” Episode 2, selected.

**BALKANS: OLD TRAUMAS AND NEW COMPLICATIONS**


**FROM PUTIN TO...PUTIN: RUSSIA AND ITS NEW PROJECT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**


**UKRAINE: WHEN NATION BUILDING IS CHALLENGED**


**IDENTITY POLITICS: EUROSCEPTISISM AND RISE OF POPULISM IN EASTERN EUROPE**
